Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph number [0002], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0002] Lightbanks are used by photographers to create whatever lighting environment they need to illuminate photographic objects for the effects they want their photographs to portray. Conventional lightbanks, usually comprise a light source, a shroud to confine and direct the light produced by the light source, a diffuser panel to scatter and distribute the light evenly to reduce glare spots and dark spots, and a support structure. They are available in various sizes ranging from less than a foot to twenty feet or more across. Most professional photographers find that they need at least several different sizes and that they would like to have more. However, lightbanks are fairly expensive, and they are bulky and not easy to carry and set up, especially the medium and larger sizes. Consequently, many photographers are discouraged about purchasing and having all the lightbank size and shape variety they want or need at their photographic studios. Also, even if they have a variety of sizes and shapes available, some photographers are still discouraged about transporting more than one or two of them to off-site ~~objects~~ locations.

Please replace paragraph number [0023], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0023] The frame 14 of a conventional lightbank 10 is often either part of, or mounted around, a housing 16, which contains a light source 18. The housing 16 can be supported in myriad ways, but it is often supported by a tripod stand 19. The support rods 12 keep the fabric shroud 20 outstretched to extend axially and radially from the frame to confine light produced by the light source and direct it forwardly in a generally axial direction to a space, object, or background, which a photographer wants to illuminate. The number of support rods 12 is optional, but, usually, a larger shroud 20 requires either a larger number of support rods 12, ~~stronger~~ or the support rods 12 should be stronger, or both. A larger number of rods 12 will provide a different polygonal shape for the distal (front) end 22 of the shroud 20. In the example illustrated in Figures 1-7, eight support rods 12 are used, which provides an octagonal shape. Four support rods 12 would provide a square shape, for example, and six support rods 12 would provide a hexagonal shape.

Please replace paragraph number [0028], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0028] The structure of the shroud extension 100 can also be similar in many respects to the structure of the primary shroud 20. For example, the plurality of extension rods 112 (shown in phantom lines in Figure 3 and the proximal ends 144 of which are shown in Figure 7) can be slideably positioned into sleeves 140 formed and sewn into the extension ring 120 and abutted against distal end abutment structures 142, as shown in ~~Figures 1-7~~ Figures 1-8. Connection of the proximal ends 144 of the extension rods 112 to the distal ends 46 of the primary support rods 12 will be described in more detail below. An extension diffuser panel 130 can be provided in the front end of the shroud extension 100, if desired. However, the primary diffuser panel 30 is attached to the primary shroud 20 in a manner that does not interfere with attachment of the shroud extension 100 to the distal end border 22 of the primary shroud 20, so the primary diffuser panel 30 can remain in place to scatter, soften, and evenly distribute light when the shroud extension 100 is attached in place for use. Consequently, use of either the extension diffuser panel 130 and/or the primary diffuser panel 20 is optional, as is use of the additional diffuser panel 38 in the primary shroud 20. However, for most photographic lighting applications, the extension diffuser panel will probably be used whenever the shroud extension 100 is used.

Please replace paragraph number [0030], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0030] As mentioned above, the proximal ends 144 of the extension rods 112 can be detachably connected to the distal ends 46 of the primary support rods 12 in any convenient manner that will enable the extension rods 112 to support the extension ring 120 in its outstretched, use configuration, which configuration is shown in Figures 1-6. Therefore, it is preferred, although not essential, that the rod connection structure be one that enables the extension rods 112 to be put under some compression between the primary rods 12 and the abutment structures 142, if desired, to make the extension rods 112 conform to and support the full outstretched shape of the extension ring 120.

Please replace paragraph number [0031], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0031] An example detachable extension rod connector 60 that can provide this kind of function, as well as the function of keeping the primary support rods 12 in compression, as described above, is illustrated in Figures 9-11. Essentially, the connector 60 in this example includes a ferrule portion 61 with an axial hole 62 in one end, which is fitted onto the distal end [[44]] 46 of the primary support rod 12. As also illustrated in Figures 10 and 11, the rod connector 60 has a stub shaft portion 64 extending axially away from the distal end 46 of the primary support rod 12. The stub shaft portion 64 of the connector 60 is smaller in diameter than the ferrule portion 61, so there is an annular shoulder 66 on the connector 60. The abutment structure 42 of the primary shroud 20 includes a grommet 70 with a hole 72 diameter that is large enough to fit over the stub shaft portion 64 of the connector 60, but which is too small to fit over the ferrule portion 61. Therefore, the shoulder 66 of the connector abuts the grommet 70 of the abutment structure 42 (Figures 10 and 11) to limit axial movement of the primary support rod 12 in relation to the primary shroud 20, thereby enabling the primary support rod 12 to be maintained in compression when the proximal end 44 of the primary support rod 12 is anchored to the frame 14 (Figure 3).

Please replace paragraph number [0033], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0033] Of course, the connector 60 could also be structured inversely, for example, the connector 60 shown in Figure 12 has two oppositely directed stub shafts 64, 64' for sliding into hollow ends 46, 144, respectively of the rods 12, 112. A shoulder 66 between the two stub shafts 64, 64' can abut the grommet 70 for the same effect as that described above for the connector 60. As another alternative, either the distal end 46 of the primary support rod 12 or the proximal end 144 of the extension support rod 112 can be machined or otherwise made with a smaller diameter stub shaft 64", as illustrated in Figure 14, while the opposite proximal end 142 or distal end 46 is hollow with a hole 62' large enough to receive the stub shaft 64". The grommet 70, if there is one, can abut either the shoulder 66' created by the smaller diameter portion 64" of the rod 12 or 112, or the shoulder 66" created by the wall thickness of the rod 112 or 12 around the hole 62'. In another example connector 60, illustrated in Figure 13, the connector 60 comprises a dowel pin 68 extending into, and axially away from, the hollow distal end 144 of the primary support rod 12. The portion 64'

of the dowel pin 68 that extends into the distal end [[44]] 46 of the primary support rod 12 can be held in place by any common technique, such as glue, friction, crimping, etc., which are well within the knowledge and capabilities of persons skilled in the art. The external portion 64 is sized to fit through the hole 72 in grommet 70 and into the hole 148 in the proximal end 144 of the extension rod 112 to connect the extension rod 112 to the primary support rod 12 in the same manner as described above. In this example, the grommet 70 abuts the distal end [[44]] 46 of the primary support rod 12. Persons skilled in the art will be able to devise many other connector structures for the rods 12, 112 to provide some or all of the functions described above to implement and practice this invention, once they understand the principles of this invention.

Please replace paragraph number [0034], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0034] The abutment structure 42 of the primary shroud 20 can include the grommet 70 affixed to a piece of reinforcing fabric 74 or other material sewn, glued, or otherwise attached to the shroud 20 fabric or other material, for example, as illustrated in Figures 10-13. Alternatively, as illustrated in Figure 14, the abutment structure 42 can include a flexible strap or flap 76 sewn or otherwise attached to one part of the reinforcing fabric 74 and detachably connected to another part of the reinforcing fabric 74 by a fastener, for example, the hook and loop type fastener strip 78, 79. When the extension rod 112 is not attached to the primary support rod 12, the flap 76 can be closed and fastened to the reinforcing fabric 74 by the fasteners 78, 79, so the distal end [[44]] 46 of primary support rod 12 abuts the flap 76. Then, in order to connect the extension rod 112 to the primary support rod 12, the flap 76 can be detached from the reinforcing fabric 74 and moved aside, as illustrated by the phantom lines 76'. The extension rod 112 can then be moved into place for connection to the primary support rod 12 in any manner, as described above.

Please replace paragraph number [0035], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0035] Instead of separate extension rods 112, as shown and described in the examples above, the extension rods 112 can be telescoped into and out of the primary support rod 12, an example of which is illustrated in Figure 15. In this example, the extension rod 112

slides, as indicated by arrow 86 into the primary support rod 12 for storage, when the extension shroud 100 (Figures 1-7) is not attached to the primary shroud 20. However, for support of the fabric ring 120, when the extension shroud 100 is attached to the primary shroud 20, the extension rods 112 can be pulled telescopically out of the primary support rods 12 and extended through the sleeves 140 of the extension shroud 100 and into the extension rod abutment 142, as illustrated in Figure 15. The extension rod 112 can be retained in this extended position by any suitable latch or other device, many of which are well-known, for example, the spring-biased button latch 90 shown in Figure 15. In this example, the button latch 90 comprises a push button 91 mounted in the extension rod 112 near its proximal end 144. The push button 91 is biased by spring [[92]] 93 to protrude radially from the extension rod 112. Normally, when the extension rod 112 is retracted into rod 12, the sidewall of rod 12 prevents such radial protrusion. However, when the extension rod 112 is extended to a point where the push button aligns with a side hole 92 in the primary rod 12, the spring 93 causes the push button 91 to protrude radially through the hole 92, where it prevents any further relative sliding movement between the extension rod 112 and the primary support rod 12. Of course, to retract the extension rod 112, the push button 91 can be pushed manually against the bias of spring 93 back inside rod 12 to again permit slideable movement of the extension rod 112 in relation to primary support rod 12. The knob 94 at the distal end 146 of the extension rod 112 can be used to prevent the extension rod 112 from being retracted too far inside the primary support rod 12. The grommet 70 of the primary abutment structure 42 abuts the distal end 46 of the primary support rod 12 in the same manner as described above. The extension abutment structure 142 can be a piece of reinforcing fabric 174 fastened to the extension ring 120 to form a pocket to receive and retain the distal end 146 of the extension rod 112 in the same manner as shown in Figures 1-7 or any other suitable manner to support the distal (front) end 122 of the extension ring 120 against the extension rod 112.